

THE  
*Episcopal*  
CHURCH

**U.S. Foreign Assistance: Why it matters.**

The U.S. has a longstanding bipartisan commitment to fight extreme poverty and to respond to humanitarian emergencies all around the world. At **less than one percent** of the federal budget, foreign assistance has saved millions of lives and continues to do so today. The International Affairs account is the main vehicle through which the federal government provides this assistance.

The Episcopal Church General Convention has passed [many resolutions](#) in support of international development and humanitarian assistance. We also recognize Episcopal Relief and Development, which works to alleviate hunger, create economic opportunities, promote health, and respond to disasters. We urge you to continue your support of Episcopal Relief and Development and to advocate to Congress to provide sufficient funding for foreign assistance programs:

**Development Assistance (DA):** U.S. development assistance is a key piece of U.S. investment in helping the world's poorest obtain access to education and clean water, grow nutritious food, promote economic development, support good governance, respond to environmental crises, and create more sustainable, self-sufficient democratic societies. **We urge Congress to allocate \$3 billion to the DA account in Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18).**

**International Disaster Assistance (IDA):** IDA provide lifesaving assistance following natural and man-made disasters, including conflicts, earthquakes, floods, and droughts. **We call on Congress to allocate \$3.41 billion towards this sub-account in Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18).**

**Global Health Programs:** U.S. global health funding helps reduce child mortality, slow the spread of diseases such as HIV/AIDS, address health emergencies, prevent malnutrition, and support initiatives such as the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) and President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). **We ask Congress to allocate \$9.5 billion to global health programs in Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18).**

**McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition:** This program provides U.S. agricultural products and financial and technical assistance for school feeding and maternal and child nutrition projects in low income, food-deficit countries that are committed to universal education. The program gives school-age children in poverty-stricken countries with what is often their only full meal of the day, and helps protect vulnerable children and their families, especially during societal shocks. **We request that Congress to allocate \$209.5 million towards this sub-account in Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18).**

**Food for Peace Title II:** Title II food assistance program authorizes the U.S. to confront global hunger and malnutrition and bring stability to situations that can threaten our national security. It includes emergency programs that keep people alive through natural disasters, conflict, and food security crises. **We urge congress to allocate 1.875 billion to this account in Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18).**

**Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC):** The MCC aims to reduce poverty through growth. It works with competitively-selected developing countries to provide program-oriented partnerships, focusing specifically on promoting sustained economic growth through investments in areas such as agriculture, education, private sector development, and capacity building. **We call on Congress to allocate \$1 billion towards this sub-account in Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18).**

**Learn More:**

U.S. Foreign Assistance: [http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/Pnadc240.pdf](http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/Pnadc240.pdf)

OFFICE of GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

110 Maryland Avenue, NE Suite 309 ☉ Washington DC 20002 ☉ 800.228.0515 P 202.547.7300 ☉ [advocacy.episcopalchurch.org](http://advocacy.episcopalchurch.org)

